



The Lemonier Express

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Message From the Commander

Another month ripped off the calendar and put in the circular file. That said, post-holiday season is always a bit of a downer for us out here...and I know that it is the same for you back there. Thanks for enduring this separation. There are many good things happening out here. We have a much stronger coalition than we have ever had and we are closer to rolling up some key suspects. But the best news of all is that your loved ones continue to perform in a truly magnificent manner and to generate a camaraderie and esprit that has been a joy to watch and be a part of. You can be very proud of what they have done. As I said in my November News Letter — Sacrifice has a unique way of helping us to appreciate the things we otherwise take for granted. We appreciate and look forward with great anticipation to the opportunity to return home to your loving care and encouragement.

There is an old quote that says – “The only thing worse than war is the belief that nothing is worth fighting for.” I am thankful that you and I both understand that there are things worth fighting for and that we have demonstrated our resolve through our actions. As I said in November, we are here guarding the gates of freedom against terrorism and tyranny, and you are there taking care of family, friends, and loved ones. Thank you for your sacrifice.

This week I visited a project we had just completed. It was the renovation of a dilapidated school in a small hut village in southern Djibouti. The entire town turned out to thank us for fixing the roof, doors, windows, toilets, lighting and water cistern. We provided the materials and supervision while they did much of the work. It was a wonderful team effort. Their enthusiasm and deep appreciation for what you and I would consider a very small contribution was over whelming.

Your loved ones are having a significant impact out here in winning back the neighborhoods from the terrorists who would seek to move in and enflame the passions of an impoverished people. We are winning and you should be proud. Hang tough and keep your eye on our President's objective – to free the world of terrorist tyranny. Thank you for your continued support and prayers. Keep the home fires burning and God bless you.

Sincerely,
Mastin M. Robeson
Brigadier General, US Marine Corps
Commander, CJTF-HOA



IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

CJTF-HOA Info

- 1(866)360-3775
- 1(910)451-2222

American Red Cross

- 1(877)272-7337

TriCare Appointment/Advice

- 1(800)931-9501

CJTF-HOA Family Readiness Officer, Djibouti, Africa

- Lt. Kevin S. Barnett - USN
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- e-mail: froafrica@hoa.centcom.mil

Family Readiness Officer, Camp Lejeune, NC

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